

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:

Sub A 1
2 receiving an instruction relating to a database, said database comprising an
3 association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients and a
4 plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive selected ones of the plurality of events;
5 and
6 processing the instruction based on the database.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the database comprises a hierarchical, directed
2 group structure in which clients and events are assigned to groups, and wherein clients
3 assigned to a particular group are eligible for events assigned to the particular group as
4 well as events assigned to all ancestor groups of the particular group.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a new client instruction,
2 said new client instruction including a client identifier and a group identifier, and wherein
3 processing the instruction comprises:

4 assigning a client indicated by the client identifier to a group indicated by the
5 group identifier.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a ticket instruction, said
2 ticket instruction including a particular group identifier, and wherein processing the
3 instruction comprises:

4 generating a ticket based on the particular group identifier, said ticket
5 summarizing a set of events for which clients assigned to a group identified with the
6 particular group identifier are eligible; and
7 providing the ticket for a particular client assigned to the particular group.

1 5. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a key instruction, said key
2 instruction referring to a particular event summarized on a ticket for a particular client,
3 and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

4 providing keying information to facilitate the event between the particular client
5 and at least one additional client.

1 6. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a new event instruction,
2 said new event instruction including a group identifier and an event identifier, said event
3 identifier indicating an event available from a particular client assigned to a group
4 indicated by the particular group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction
5 comprises:

6 assigning the event indicated by the event identifier to the group indicated by the
7 group identifier.

1 7. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a delete instruction, said
2 delete instruction including a group identifier and an entity identifier, said entity identifier
3 comprising one of a client identifier and a content identifier, and wherein processing the
4 instruction comprises:

5 deleting an entity indicated by the entity identifier from a group indicated by the
6 group identifier.

1 8. The method of claim 2 wherein the instruction comprises a modification instruction,
2 said modification instruction including a group identifier, modification information, and
3 an entity identifier, said entity identifier comprising one of a client identifier and a
4 content identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:

5 modifying an entity indicated by the entity identifier and assigned to a group
6 indicated by the group identifier with the modification information.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is shared by a ticketing server and a
2 keying server.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the ticketing server and the keying server are
2 located remotely from one another.

1 11. A machine readable storage medium having stored thereon machine executable
2 instructions, execution of said machine readable instructions to implement a method
3 comprising:

4 receiving an instruction relating to a database, said database comprising an
5 association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients and a
6 plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive selected ones of the plurality of events;
7 and

8 processing the instruction based on the database.

1 12. The machine readable storage medium of claim 11 wherein the database
2 comprises a hierarchical, directed group structure in which clients and events are

3 assigned to groups, and wherein clients assigned to a particular group are eligible for
4 events assigned to the particular group as well as events assigned to all ancestor
5 groups of the particular group.

1 13. The machine readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein the instruction
2 comprises a new client instruction, said new client instruction including a client identifier
3 and a group identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:
4 assigning a client indicated by the client identifier to a group indicated by the
5 group identifier.

1 14. The machine readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein the instruction
2 comprises a ticket instruction, said ticket instruction including a particular group
3 identifier, and wherein processing the instruction comprises:
4 generating a ticket based on the particular group identifier, said ticket
5 summarizing a set of events for which clients assigned to a group identified with the
6 particular group identifier are eligible; and
7 providing the ticket for a particular client assigned to the particular group.

1 15. The machine readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein the instruction
2 comprises a key instruction, said key instruction referring to a particular event
3 summarized on a ticket for a particular client, and wherein processing the instruction
4 comprises:
5 providing keying information to facilitate the event between the particular client
6 and at least one additional client.

2 a port to receive an instruction relating to a database, said database comprising
3 an association between a plurality of events available at a plurality of sending clients
4 and a plurality of receiving clients eligible to receive selected ones of the plurality of
5 events; and
6 a processing unit to process the instruction based on the database.

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